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**TESTIMONY-SENATE BILL 808 POSITION: SUPPORT**  
**Licensed Dentists-Administration of Vaccines**  
**Education, Health and Environmental Affairs**  
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Good afternoon. Thank you, Chair Pinsky and Committee members for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Leslie Grant. I am a general dentist and presently serve as a member of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners. I have been a Dental Volunteer Responder with the Maryland Medical Reserve Corps for more than a decade, and completed their vaccine training earlier this year. I appreciate Senator West's sponsorship of SB 808 and would like to express my wholehearted support. This Bill amends the Dental Practice Act to include vaccine administration and provides requirements for training, informed consent, documentation and reporting. SB 808 will expand the opportunity to contribute to disease prevention in our state, including our most vulnerable populations.

Dental practitioners offer a great safety net for providing vaccinations. We are amongst the most trusted of health care providers. Prevention is a hallmark of our profession. We are adept at educating patients, and are well positioned to address vaccine hesitancy. Dentists are experts in injection administration and precision, we provide more injections than other health care providers and we know how to ameliorate concerns regarding fear of needles. Dentists incorporate proper dosing and dispensing protocols as well as sharps safety in everyday practice.

General dentists typically see patients more frequently than physicians, treat the entire family, and often multiple generations within one family. Dentists offer care in environments where safety is paramount and treatment is delivered by providers who have long term familiarity with implementation of infection control protocols, aerosol safety and proper sequence for donning and removal of personal protective equipment. We provide care across a wide range of settings including private offices, training institutions, correctional facilities, nursing homes and community health centers.

This Bill is good for public health, strengthens collaboration within the health team and provides for an enhanced level of care by an important partner in the health home. In my opinion, the provisions outlined are long overdue. The Surgeon General's report "Oral Health in America" in part asks that we work to change perceptions of oral health, increase collaborations, and increase oral health workforce capacity and flexibility. That report from the year 2000 is twenty years old. Several states have already expanded their scope of practice to include vaccine administration by dentists. The University of Maryland School of Dentistry has already incorporated vaccine training into the curriculum. Vaccine administration by Maryland licensed dentists will be tremendously beneficial for our patients and your constituents.

I request a favorable report on Senate Bill 808. Thank you.